

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 029055
ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029055

STADIS//////////

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM NEA/RA PALMER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO, MASS

SUBJECT:ERSTWHILE DOL 5M FOR UPGRADING CENTO MILITARY COM-
MUNICATIONS

REF: TEHRAN 1022

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GENERAL BRETT CONVEYED TO YOU THE WORD THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED TO DELETE THE ITEM FOR SUBJECT MAP GRANT FROM THE REVISED FY 78 BUDGET REQUEST TO THE CONGRESS. WE ARE CONSIDERING HOW TO TREAT THIS REVERSAL VIS-A-VIS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND CENTO MILITARY ELEMENTS, AND WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS.

2. OF ONE THING WE (INCLUDING ROY ATHERTON) ARE SURE:
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PAGE 02 STATE 029055

WE SHOULD NOT LEAD WITH OUR CHIN. THUS, I STRESSED TO DOD (WHEN BRETT WAS HERE) THAT WE DID NOT WANT ANY CHATTER ABOUT THIS MATTER OUTSIDE USG UNTIL WE HAD DEVELOPED THE OPTIMAL EXPLANATION. PLEASE IMPRESS THIS ON BRETT.

3. IT OCCURS TO US THAT KHALATBARI'S RECENT STATEMENT (PARA 10 REFTEL) MIGHT BE USEFUL IN THIS CONTEXT. OMB AND

OTHERS IN USG WHO OPPOSED THE GRANT CITED ITS UNILATERAL ASPECT, AND PRESSED US FOR EVIDENCE THAT SYG OR REGIONAL PARTNERS HAD EVINCED RECENT INTEREST IN IT. WHAT OTHER

CONSIDERATIONS DO YOU SUGGEST WE CAN ADDUCE?

4. IN RESPONSE TO ANKARA 805 I PLAN TO BE THERE FEB 25, AND AM WILLING TO PLAY THE ROLE OF THE "HEAVY" ON THIS DOL 5M ISSUE. THE CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION OF THE FY 78 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS NOT EXPECTED TO GO TO THE HILL UNTIL ABOUT MARCH 1.

5. ONE OF THE REASONS WE ARE DELINQUENT ON INFORMING YOU OF THE DECISION TO AXE THE DOL 5M IS OUR CONCENTRATION ON THE OVERALL CENTO POLICY OPTIONS PAPER. I HOPE IT WILL BE READY FOR THE SECRETARY'S ATTENTION BY NEXT WEEK.

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